insurance coverage; hearing aids; children

State of Arizona House of Representatives Fifty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session 2024

## **HOUSE BILL 2112**

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 9, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 20-1057.20; RELATING TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

- i -

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Title 20, chapter 4, article 9, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 20-1057.20, to read:

20-1057.20. <u>Hearing aids</u>; <u>evidences of coverage</u>; <u>children</u>; <u>definitions</u>

- A. A HEALTH CARE SERVICES ORGANIZATION THAT ISSUES, AMENDS, DELIVERS OR RENEWS AN EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR A HEARING AID AND ANY RELATED SERVICE FOR THE FULL COST OF ONE HEARING AID PER HEARING IMPAIRED EAR UP TO \$2,200 EVERY THIRTY-SIX MONTHS FOR AN ENROLLEE WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR WHO IS UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE IF THE ENROLLEE IS STILL ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL. THE ENROLLEE MAY CHOOSE A HIGHER PRICED HEARING AID AND MAY PAY THE DIFFERENCE IN COST ABOVE THE \$2,200 LIMIT WITHOUT FINANCIAL OR CONTRACTUAL PENALTY TO THE ENROLLEE OR THE PROVIDER OF THE HEARING AID.
- B. A HEALTH CARE SERVICES ORGANIZATION MAY MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE ENROLLEE THE OPTION OF PURCHASING ADDITIONAL HEARING AID COVERAGE THAT EXCEEDS THE SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.
- C. THE HEARING AID COVERAGE SHALL INCLUDE FITTING AND DISPENSING SERVICES, PROVIDING EAR MOLDS, AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN OPTIMAL FIT, AND ANY RELATED SERVICES AS PROVIDED BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.
- D. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SHORT-TERM TRAVEL, ACCIDENT-ONLY OR LIMITED BENEFIT COVERAGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 20-1137.
- E. COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS MAY BE SUBJECT TO DEDUCTIBLES AND COINSURANCE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE IMPOSED ON OTHER BENEFITS UNDER THE SAME EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE.
  - F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:
- 1. "HEARING AID" MEANS DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT THAT IS OF A DESIGN AND CIRCUITRY TO OPTIMIZE AUDIBILITY AND LISTENING SKILLS IN THE ENVIRONMENT COMMONLY EXPERIENCED BY CHILDREN.
- 2. "LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER" MEANS A PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32, CHAPTER 13 OR 17, AN AUDIOLOGIST WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 36, CHAPTER 17 AND A HEARING AID DISPENSER WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 36, CHAPTER 17.

Sec. 2. Applicability

Section 20-1057.20, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, applies to evidences of coverage issued with an effective date on or after December 31, 2024.

- 1 -